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1 Sanction categories and measures, for certification according to Reg. (EU) 2018/848

This document specifies general classification criteria and measures. Detailed non-compliances and respective measures are listed in the guidelines in the Intact database.

Category of non-compliance	Classification criteria	Measures	Deadlines
Minor non-compliance	The non-compliance does not affect the integrity of the organic or in-conversion product. Precautionary measures are proportionate and appropriate and the self control efficient. A traceability system is in place.	Depending on the situation, there are the following options: Corrective action must be implemented and action plan must be submitted to bio.inspecta. Usually, verification will be done during the next annual update inspection (depending on the situation, a shorter deadline may be requested, e.g. next submission of the data sheet, etc.). Corrective action must be implemented and evidence submitted to bio.inspecta before certification. An action plan on the correction of the non-compliance needs to be provided until a set deadline. An action plan on the correction of the non-compliance needs to be provided before certification. The operator or group of operators must increase the frequency of own controls and the action plan must be submitted to bio.inspecta. Not correcting the minor non-compliance or repeated may lead to a majour non-compliance.	14 days Next inspection 14 days 14 days 14 days 14 days one time repeat

Major non-compliance	The non-compliance affects the integrity of the organic or in-conversion product. Precautionary measures are not proportionate and appropriate and the self control not efficient. A traceability system is in place, allowing to locate the affected product in the supply chain and the product can be prevented from being imported to the EU with reference to organic production. A minor non-compliance has not been corrected within the set time limits.	Decertification/ downgrading of certain plots, products, lots. The concerned products may not be marketed or advertised with reference to organic production according to Reg. (EU) 2018/848 with immediate effect. New conversion period Corrective action (action plan) is required in order to ensure that the non-compliance is not repeated. Improvement of the implementation of the precautionary measures and the controls that the operator has put in place to ensure compliance.	Immediate action Immediate action 14 days
	Significant deviation between input and output calculation (mass balance)	The operator or group of operators must increase the frequency of own controls and submit the improvid action plan. Not correcting the majour non-compliance or repeated may lead to a critical non-compliance.	14 days 1 time repeat

Critical non-compliance	The non-compliance affects the integrity of the organic or in-conversion product . Precautionary measures are not proportionate and appropriate and the self control not efficient. The traceability system does not allow to located the affected product in the supply chain and the product cannot be prevented from being imported to the EU with reference to organic production. Intentional use of unallowed inputs, intentional labelling of conventional products as organic, any other kind of fraud. A majour non-compliance has not been corrected.	Decertification/ downgrading of of certain plots, products, lots. The concerned products may not be marketed or advertised with reference to organic production according to Reg. (EU) 2018/848 with immediate effect. New conversion period required Corrective action is required in order to ensure that the non-compliance is not repeated in future (e.g. regarding precautionary measures and self control). The operator or group of operators must increase the frequency of own controls and submit the improvd action plan. Depending on the situation, the certificate is suspended for a certain period of time, or withdrawn.	Immediate action Immediate action 14 days 14 days Immediate action
	Absence of records and financial records showing the compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848		
	Intentional omission of information leading to incomplete records		
	Falsification of documents connected with the certification of organic Products		
	Intentional re-labelling of downgraded products as organic		
	Intentional mixing organic with in-conversion or non-organic products		
	Intentional use of non-authorised substances or products within the scope of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848		

	Intentional use of GMOs		
	The operator refuses the control authority or the control body access to premises subject to controls, or to its book keepings, including financial records, or refuses to allow the control authority or control body to take samples		
Further texts for the evaluation/decision letter	**Classification criteria**	**Measures**	
Reminder	Issues currently not relevant but might become so in future.	No measures are required.	Onsite verification next inspection
Info request	Documents which have not been available during inspection (plausible explanation), or need some correction (e.g. maps, crop rotation plans).	Evidence of corrective action must be provided within 14 days of notification and prior to certification. If evidence is not provided in time, this will lead to a majour or critical non-compliance. repeated may lead to a critical non-compliance.	14 days 1 time repeat
Suspicion	It is suspected, or substantiated information is received that products may not be in compliance with the organic regulation.	The operator may be required to provisionally not market concerned products with reference to the organic or in-conversion production method for a time period to be set by bio.inspecta. Before taking such a decision bio.inspecta shall allow the operator to comment within a deadline set by bio.inspecta. During this time period, evidence regarding the substantiated suspicion must be provided in order to take a final certification decision. If evidence is not provided in time or if there is no full cooperation of the operator in investigating a suspicion, this will lead to a majour or critical non-compliance.	Blocked within given notice.

		If evidence is not provided in time, this will lead to critical non-compliance.	
Additional controlling	Additional controlling can be related to any situation making additional controlling necessary, such as new activity planned, activity not ongoing during main inspection, verification of implementation of corrective measures, additional control due to high risk classification, investigation because of suspicion.	Additional controls may be on-site or digital inspection visits, desktop documentary checks before issuing COIs, sampling and analysis.	Additional inspection within the planed time.

2 Sanction categories NOP

Sanction categories	Description
0	Potential risk of noncompliance: Issues not yet relevant but might become so in future. Precautionary information.
MN	Noncompliant practices or minor inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure and can easily be corrected. Evidence of corrective actions must be provided within the deadline. Certification will be conducted despite unresolved MNs.
MN2	Noncompliant practices or minor inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure but require a corrective action plan within the deadline to ensure and verify compliance. Unresolved MN2s will lead to a proposed suspension.
PS	Systemic failure that demonstrates inability to comply with the regulations or accidental or otherwise un-willful application of a prohibited substance to land.
PR	Deliberate violation of the regulations, falsification or concealment of records, refusal to provide access to a site or records or continuing noncompliance with the regulations following a proposed suspension.

2.1 Possibility of rebuttal according to NOP (USDA) in case of a Notification of Noncompliance

If a certified operation believes the notification of noncompliance is incorrect or not well-founded, the certified operation may submit a rebuttal to bio.inspecta AG, as applicable, providing supporting data to refute the facts stated in the notification. The opportunity for

rebuttal is provided to allow certifying agents and certified operations to informally resolve noncompliance issues. The rebuttal process should be helpful in resolving differences which may be the result of misinterpretation of requirements, misunderstandings, or incomplete information.

Alternatively, the certified operation may correct the identified noncompliance and submit proof of such corrections. When the certified operation demonstrates that each noncompliance has been corrected or otherwise resolved, the certifying agent will send the certified operation a written notification of noncompliance resolution.

3 Sanction categories bio.inspecta Organic Standard

Sanction categories	Description
0	*Potential risk of noncompliance* Issues not yet relevant but might become so in future. Precautionary information.
A	*Minor noncompliance* Implementation of corrective actions will usually be verified during the next annual update inspection. Depending on the case, the certifier may decide for a shorter deadline.
B	*Major noncompliance, organic integrity of product not at risk (i.e. documents required for certification are missing)* Evidence of corrective action must be provided within 15 days of notification and prior to certification.
C	*Suspicion* The operator may be required to provisionally not market concerned products with reference to the organic production method for a time period to be set by bio.inspecta. Before taking such a decision bio.inspecta shall allow the operator to comment within a deadline set by bio.inspecta. During this time period, evidence regarding the substantiated suspicion must be provided in order to take a final certification decision. Relevant authorities, control bodies or label owners may be notified at any time.
D	*Irregularity or infringement affecting the organic status of the operating unit* Decertification/ downgrading. If certification is withdrawn and it is no longer permitted, with immediate effect, to market products under the certified standard. Buyers must be informed about the withdrawal of certification. bio.inspecta will

	inform relevant control bodies, control authorities, competent authorities and EU Member States concerned and, where appropriate, the EU Commission or label owners. The level of communication shall depend on the severity and the extent of the irregularity or infringement found (according to bi-OS, Part I, Article 30.2 and Part II, Article 92.4). bio.inspecta may terminate the contract with the operator.
D(A)	*Irregularity or infringement preventing certification of new applicants which was never previously subject to an inspection/certification procedure.* Denial. Certification may not be granted. bio.inspecta may terminate the contract with the operator.
D1	*Irregularity or infringement affecting the organic status of certain fields/ products/ lots* Partial decertification/ downgrading of certain fields, products, lots. If certification is withdrawn, it is no longer permitted, with immediate effect, to market the concerned products under the certified standard. The operator might be required to inform buyers about the withdrawal of certification. bio.inspecta will inform relevant control bodies, control authorities, competent authorities and EU Member States concerned and, where appropriate, the EU Commission or label owners. The level of communication shall depend on the severity and the extent of the irregularity or infringement found (according to bi-OS, Part I, Article 30.2 and Part II, Article 92.4). bio.inspecta may terminate the contract with the operator. The operating unit remains certified.
D1(A)	*Irregularity or infringement preventing certification of new products* Partial denial of products newly submitted to the control procedure.
E	*Additional controlling* This sanction can be related to any situation making additional controlling necessary, such as new activity planned, activity not ongoing during main inspection, verification of implementation of corrective measures, additional control due to high risk classification, investigation because of suspicion. Additional controls may be on-site or digital inspection visits, desktop documentary checks before issuing COIs, sampling and analysis.

If corrective measures are not implemented, evidence is not provided in time or if there is no full cooperation of the operator in resolving a suspicion, this will after one reminder, lead to a higher sanction level.

4 Sanction Catalogue for Bio Suisse Standard

Category	Case	Description	Integrity impact	Sanction	Sanction in event of recurrence

0		No or minor non-conformity	Integrity is not or is not directly compromised	Info or note in the certification decision	
A		Major non-conformity*	Integrity is compromised		
	A01			Condition for approval	Binding condition, withdrawal of certification for the crop/product in the following year
	A02			Condition for approval	Binding condition, withdrawal of certification for the operation in the following year
B		Major non-conformity	Integrity is compromised		
	B01			Binding condition	Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product
	B02			Binding condition	Withdrawal of certification for the operation
C		Potentially serious non-conformity	Integrity is potentially violated	Correction/measure necessary before certification	
D		Serious non-conformity	Integrity is violated		
	D01			Crop/product status downgraded	Crop/product status downgraded
	D02			Crop/product status downgraded	Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product
	D03			Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product	Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product
	D04			Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product	Withdrawal of certification for the operation
	D05			Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product; plot status downgraded	Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product; plot status downgraded

	D06			Withdrawal of certification for the crop/product; plot status downgraded	Withdrawal of certification for the operation
	D07			Withdrawal of certification for the operation	
	D08			Withdrawal of certification for the operation, plot status downgraded	
	D09			Withdrawal of certification for the operation, operation status downgraded	
	D10			Withdrawal of certification for the operation, waiting period for re-entry	

* The non-conformity either cannot be remedied by the next inspection for agronomic/organisational reasons, or a remedy would not be proportionate

5 Sanction Catalogue for Turkish Organic Regulation

Sanction categories	Description
Minor non-compliance	Noncompliant practices or minor inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure and can easily be corrected. Evidence of corrective actions must be provided within the deadline. Certification might be conducted despite unresolved minor non-compliances.
Major non-compliance	Noncompliant practices or inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure but require a corrective action plan within the deadline to ensure and verify compliance. Unresolved major non-compliances might lead to denial/ withdrawl of certificate or decertification/ downgrading of certain plots, products, lots etc.
Critical non-compliance	The non-compliance affects the integrity of the organic or in-conversion product. It might indicate systemic failure and require immediate corrective action. This might lead to denial/ withdrawl of certificate or decertification/ downgrading of certain plots, products, lots etc.

6 Sanction Catalogue for Albanian Organic Regulation

Sanction categories	Description
Minor non-compliance	Noncompliant practices or minor inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure and can easily be corrected. Evidence of corrective actions must be provided within the deadline. Certification might be conducted despite unresolved minor non-compliances.
Major non-compliance	Noncompliant practices or inconsistencies or omissions that indicate no systemic failure but require a corrective action plan within the deadline to ensure and verify compliance. Unresolved major non-compliances might lead to denial/ withdrawl of certificate or decertification/ downgrading of certain plots, products, lots etc.
Critical non-compliance	The non-compliance affects the integrity of the organic or in-conversion product. It might indicate systemic failure and require immediate corrective action. This might lead to denial/ withdrawl of certificate or decertification/ downgrading of certain plots, products, lots etc.

7 Quality assurance

In order to monitor set deadlines, your inspection body can conduct unannounced additional inspections at any time.

8 Right to appeal

Decisions of the certification body are in principle binding as soon as they are issued. An appeal against a decision of the certification body can be lodged with the Appeals Service **no later than 30 days from delivery of the decision**. The charge for the appeals procedure is Euro 400 for appeals that are partly rejected, and Euro 600 for appeals that are fully rejected. The appeal must state its grounds and include any available evidence, and be sent to the Appeals Service of bio.inspecta, Ackerstrasse, 5070 Frick, Switzerland. On the outside the letter must be marked visibly with the word: Appeal. Submission of an appeal does not have a postponing effect. At the appellant ’s request, the President of the Appeals Service may grant postponing effect to an appeal.